



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

State of Connecticut  
Commerce Committee Testimony  
February 14, 2013

My name is Christian Engle and I am the Senior Vice President/COO of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA. First and foremost, I want to thank you for hearing this testimony and potentially supporting the charitable purposes of our YMCA located in Milford, CT. The impact this project will have on our citizens will be tremendous both through programming and job creation.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA is a community service agency dedicated to addressing community needs through quality programs, as well as volunteer opportunities that enrich families, promote health and wellness, develop youth and build self-esteem for all. YMCA membership and participation is open to everyone regardless of race or ethnic background, religious preference or ability to pay.

Where there is a strong neighborhood, a YMCA is not usually far away. As a center of community life, the Y is a nurturing place that transforms residents into neighbors, strangers into friends and, soon, an impersonal town into a web of livable communities. To fulfill our mission to help people grow stronger in spirit, mind and body, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA employs more than 1,000 staff in 11 branches and 20 program sites throughout Ansonia, Derby, Milford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Trumbull, New Haven, North Haven, and Branford.

We are especially excited about the expansion of our YMCA in Milford, CT in that it will allow us to have a greater impact on children and families in the Milford community, but also because it will assist in our state's economic recovery. This expansion in Milford will add 50 additional jobs; 9 of which will be full-time positions. As a 23 year YMCA employee, a YMCA career is not only fulfilling, but has provided me with a lifelong opportunity to serve this wonderful institution.

Strengthening communities is our cause. Every day we work side by side with our neighbors in the communities we serve to make sure everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. While this project will have the greatest impact in the Milford, Orange, Woodbridge and West Haven communities, we know that the impact will be felt across our entire organization and region. At the heart of community life, the YMCA provides a place to belong and to live the values that guide and unite our members.

Thank You,

Christian Engle  
Senior Vice President/COO  
Central Connecticut Coast YMCA